

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Ignite draws teens from across state

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

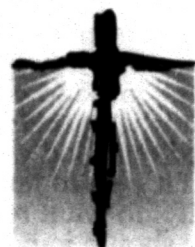
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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Over 200 teen girls from Mississippi Baptist churches participated in the 2008 Ignite (formerly Mississippi Acteens Convention) earlier this month at William Carey University (WCU) in Hattiesburg.

The theme of the meeting was Let There Be Light, based on John 8:12 - "When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' (NIV)"

Among the missions activities planned for the teens was a special evangelistic carnival for children in the neighborhood surrounding WCU, which is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Approximately 70 children showed up for the carnival, held on the grounds of the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club just down the street from WCU.

Missionary speakers also filled the weekend, including:

- Kay Bennett, North American Mission Board missionary with the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans.

- Chesed Dent, International Mission Board journeyman to the Pacific Rim and a "missionary kid."

- Kerrie Reddoch, who served on the 2006 and 2007 summer staff of Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton, the Mississippi Baptist Girls in Action (GAs) campground.



DIGGING AWAY — Mississippi Baptist Acteens dressed as clowns watch as a young girl digs through the sand for a prize at the carnival held in conjunction with Ignite (formerly Mississippi Acteens Convention) in Hattiesburg earlier this month. More than 200 teen girls from Mississippi Baptist churches participated in the gathering at William Carey University. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Nominees sought for MBC posts

Members of the Committee on Nominations for the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) will soon begin meeting and reviewing the trustee/board member positions on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for 2009.

According to Paul Crowley, committee chair and pastor of Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, there are a limited number of vacancies to be filled on the following boards and commissions:

- Baptist Health Systems, Inc. (Jackson)
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis)
- Board of Ministerial Education
- Christian Action Commission
- Education Commission
- Historical Commission
- Blue Mountain College
- Mississippi College
- William Carey University
- Mississippi Baptist Children's Village
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB)
- Mississippi Baptist Foundation

The Committee on Nominations will work in conjunction with the heads of the institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers at the 173rd annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 28-29 at First Church, Jackson.

Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting MBCB Executive Administration, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: bbox@mbcb.org.

Completed forms should be mailed to the Committee on Nominations, MBCB Executive Administration, at the above address to be received by May 1.

For information on how to serve as a messenger to the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting, contact your church's pastor or staff.

- WCU missionary kids and summer missionaries.

Mississippi Missions Educator for the conference was Mandy Davis of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale. Impaled Vision, the WCU Baptist Student Union (BSU) praise team, provided worship for the conference.

"The beauty of this meeting every year is that our Mississippi Acteens Panelists put it together," said Robin Keels, Acteens consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (wMu). "It's a program for Acteens, planned by Acteens, with Acteens presiding at the sessions."

Mississippi Acteen Panelists are chosen each year from across the Mississippi Baptist Convention, based on their commitment to the Acteens program and the program's ideals as demonstrated in their home churches.

Current Mississippi Acteens Panelists are Kathryn Fisher of First Church, Jackson; Lindsey Foley of Hillcrest Church, New Albany; and Emily Leathers of First Church, Durant.

Breakout sessions at Ignite included:

- A Messenger of Light: Missionary, with Chesed Dent and Kay Bennett.

- Fuel for the Flame: Missions Quest, with Mandy Davis.

- Girl Talk for Junior High, with Britter Prevost of the 2006 and 2007 Garaywa summer staff.

- Girl Talk for Senior High, with Allison Pannell, Mississippi Missions Educator for Youth on Missions.

- Fire Away: MKs and Summer Missionaries, with missionary kids Rebecca Clark (Romania), Katie Gray (Brazil), and Stephanie Young (Mexico).

- Sparks of Interest: Sports, Art, Creative Movement, with Abbey Phillips, Kerrie Reddoch, and Cole Wheat, all members of the 2006 and 2007 Garaywa summer staff.

- Fan Into Flame: Spiritual Gifts Inventory, with Laura Leathers, Mississippi Special Worker with the wMu.

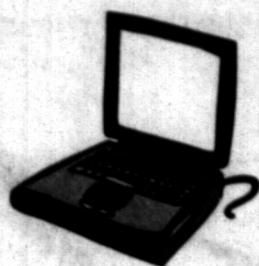
- Light Bearers: Acteens Activators, with Robin Keels.

- Fire Stokers, a dialogue session with Robin Keels and other Acteens leaders.

"There are always a lot of people behind the scenes that make this event such a special time, and I want to thank all those people," Keels said. She pointed to Tim Glaze, WCU BSU director; Adrian Strickland, WCU BSU associate director; members of the WCU BSU; the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club staff in Hattiesburg; Garaywa staffers; and the Mississippi wMu staff.

Next on the agenda is Acteens Camp at Garaywa on June 23-27 and July 7-11. MissionsNow 2009, a coed missions weekender, will be held April 3-5 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

For more information on Ignite and related events, contact Keels at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3322 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 322. E-mail: rkeels@mbcb.org.



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The miracle of Jena

In this season of ugly racial accusations, the viciousness of which in many cases has not been experienced in decades, it's inspiring to hear about people of different colors and backgrounds coming together for the common good — and to know that Jesus Christ is the reason.

Jena, Louisiana, was the scene of boiling racial tension just last year. A series of incidents at the local high school culminated in an assault against a white student, and six black students were arrested. Never shy about exploiting a situation like this — and seldom interested in the details — national news media descended on the small town and stirred the bad blood that already existed.

Before long, racial/religious con men like Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, and David Duke got involved, and both the Ku Klux Klan and the Black Panthers were making threatening statements. The bright lines between the races in Jena became even more well-defined, and bridging those lines appeared hopeless.

Into the growing maelstrom stepped Midway Baptist Church, a struggling Louisiana Baptist Convention (LBC) church that was just getting by with an interim pastor by the name of Bill Robertson, who also happened to be the LBC pastoral leadership director.

Robertson asked the church members to schedule a revival and led them to begin praying several weeks before services started. On the second night of the revival, a woman stood and said she knew God's Holy Spirit had called her to come to the

altar the night before but she hadn't stepped out. She wanted to confess her disobedience and said she would be coming at the invitation time that night to "get right."

Robertson told her not to wait, that the invitation to come to God is always open. People began to move out of the pews and flood the altar.

"There were tears, sorrow and repentance," Robertson recounted. "A spirit of brokenness flooded the room as a community leader stepped up to me and said, 'Preacher, I've been living a lie. I joined this church five years ago, but I've never been genuinely saved.' As I began to lead this man to repentance and faith, other adults began coming to the church leaders and asking for prayer and inquiring how they might be saved."

At the end of the service, five adults and two adolescents had surrendered their lives to Christ. There had been too many to count at the altar. "The numbers don't matter," said Robertson, who did not preach during the service that spanned nearly two hours. "God is working and we are participating with Him... God was working in the church and in the community."

Word spread about what was happening at Midway, and the small church's sanctuary was soon overflowing. Services had to be moved to a larger venue. Importantly, African-American residents began to show up for the services and were welcomed along with everyone else who wanted to hear the Word preached.

The church invited Jimmy Young, the pastor of predominantly-black L&A Baptist Church, to preach and bring his church's choir. Attendance exploded and scores of people of different races answered the altar call each night. Revival has now broken out among the neighbor-

ing churches of LaSalle Parish, even transcending denominational lines. The whole area is on fire for the Lord.

The Jena Revival, as it has come to be known, is entering its eighth week and the end is nowhere in sight. What Satan meant for evil, God has turned around through His people. Sadly, the news media is largely uninterested in this aspect of the continuing Jena story.

"Basically, what we've seen is God's people getting right with Him and each other," Robertson said. "God has brought about this revival and as a result, people are being saved, lives are being changed forever, and a true peace has come about, bringing unity to this area like we've never seen."

Unity in Christ. What a concept! "This is a work of God in the most unlikely place," Robertson said. "Isn't it just like our God to do something extraordinary like this so that no man can share in the glory? Community leaders would have to work for decades to bring peace to this community. Our God desires to bring the peace of Jesus into individual lives and this community now."

"A retired missionary called me the other day from Oklahoma to pray for the revival in Jena," Robertson said. "This godly man called out to God asking for the revival to sweep across our land one more time. Before he was finished praying, I was on the floor... humbled that God would do such a work and start it here in Jena."

Perhaps, if we really do want revival to sweep our nation, we should join them on the floor. I'm ready. Aren't you?

Editor's note: Special thanks to John L. Yeats, LBC director of communications, and Baptist Press for information used extensively in this commentary.

A recent Washington Post column has blogosphere feminists a little upset. Charlotte Allen's Women vs. Women column on March 2 was a tongue-in-cheek diatribe about how dumb women can be. Since I am a woman, I should be insulted. I am not, however, because beneath the insults there are some gems of truth and wisdom dealing with rising above feminist dogma and using our God-given gifts, including our brains.

Allen observes that women get hyper-emotional about things and rely on feelings to the extent that we're easily led. Her first example of this is the national phenomenon known as gushing over Barack Obama, the female version of "Obamamania." Women screaming at his campaign appearances. Women "falling for the presidential candidate literally." One radio host has counted five faintings since September at Obama rallies.

My question would be: Are they swooning over the man, or his policy prescriptions?

"I can't help it," Allen writes, "but reading about such episodes of screaming, gushing and swooning makes me wonder whether women — I should say 'we women,' of course — aren't the weaker sex after all. Or even the stupid sex

GUEST OPINION:



Women! By Penna Dexter Dallas

..." She goes on to wonder how women can catapult chick literature, like Elizabeth Gilbert's Eat, Pray, Love, to the top of The New York Times bestseller list, or how Oprah Winfrey can be so influential among women, or how we're more inclined to fall for "feel good gummy spirituality."

She continues, "Women's foolishness is usually harmless. But it can be so... embarrassing."

Embarrassing? Maybe, but not harmless. The spiritual aura around Barack Obama is a phenomenon that likely will fade as the nation engages in an intelligent consideration of the issues that face us, but the cult of Oprah Winfrey and the self-centered New Age gospel she promotes is downright dangerous.

Oprah seems to have it all: beauty, a gorgeous wardrobe,

business sense, a direct and engaging interview style. Oprah is open, transparent, and makes women feel she's just like them. She inspires fans to improve their lives as she did hers. Her roller-coaster battle with weight humanizes her as does her obvious love for people. She addresses issues that women care and want to know about — but there's a real concern with regard to Oprah Winfrey and her tremendous influence.

It's one thing to run out and buy a shirt she recommends. It's another to dabble in her eclectic mix of New Age spirituality. Intertwined within the encouragement and practical things Oprah brings to women's lives is her spiritual advice. For years, she has included her audience in her

journey toward self-fulfillment and meaning, which she admits does not consist in material things or professional success.

Oprah knows we are spiritual beings, and she's got the money and the stage upon which to elevate her hand-picked spiritual guides and gurus who pull together their versions of truth from various religions and philosophies. Her beliefs are a far cry from biblical Christianity.

Lots of smart women love Oprah. Lots of Christians are fans. Fine. Try her diet tips and emulate her generosity, but remember everything about Oprah's message is self-centered: "Discover, embrace and nurture yourself... celebrate and honor you!" her website states.

Do you love Oprah's passion for life and for others? Do you share her taste for ancient wisdom? You can find role models in God's word — women who loved God, trusted Christ, and by faith, walked the path he laid out for them.

In their examples, there is wisdom.

Dexter is a trustee of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and is involved in a number of radio ministries. Her commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

LifeWay's BeachReach targeting partiers

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (BP) — Waves roll in and lap gently at beer cans scattered for miles along the condominium-lined beach.

Music blares as scantily clad college students pour alcohol into funnels while other students chug it through a connected plastic tube. The idea is to get as drunk as possible as quickly as possible. It's obviously worked for the many passed out on or near their beach towels — and it's just 2:30 p.m.

Stepping over and around the cans and people is Julio Bonfe, a sophomore cadet at the United States Military Academy in West Point N.Y., and a couple of his classmates.

"Hey, are you guys going out to party tonight?" he asks a group, getting a resounding affirmative response. "Well," Bonfe says, "take this card with you and give us a call and we'll come get you. We're also serving free pancakes in the morning all this week."

Bonfe was one of 800-plus collegians who came to Panama City Beach, Fla., over a three-week period to participate in BeachReach, a ministry of LifeWay Christian Resources focused on college students who have come here for spring break. The BeachReachers share the Gospel with their partying peers and serve them through offering free van rides and daily pancake breakfasts.

More than 8,000 rides were provided and 50,000-plus pancakes served while the Gospel was shared countless times.

"It would be hard to say how many times the Gospel has been shared but we know it is considerable," said Angel Ellis, LifeWay's coordinator for BeachReach. "The students have lots of conversations in vans and at the pancake breakfasts... Walls between two complete strangers simply seem to

crumble over a plate of pancakes and through providing a ride to someone. As a result, the Gospel of Christ is presented."

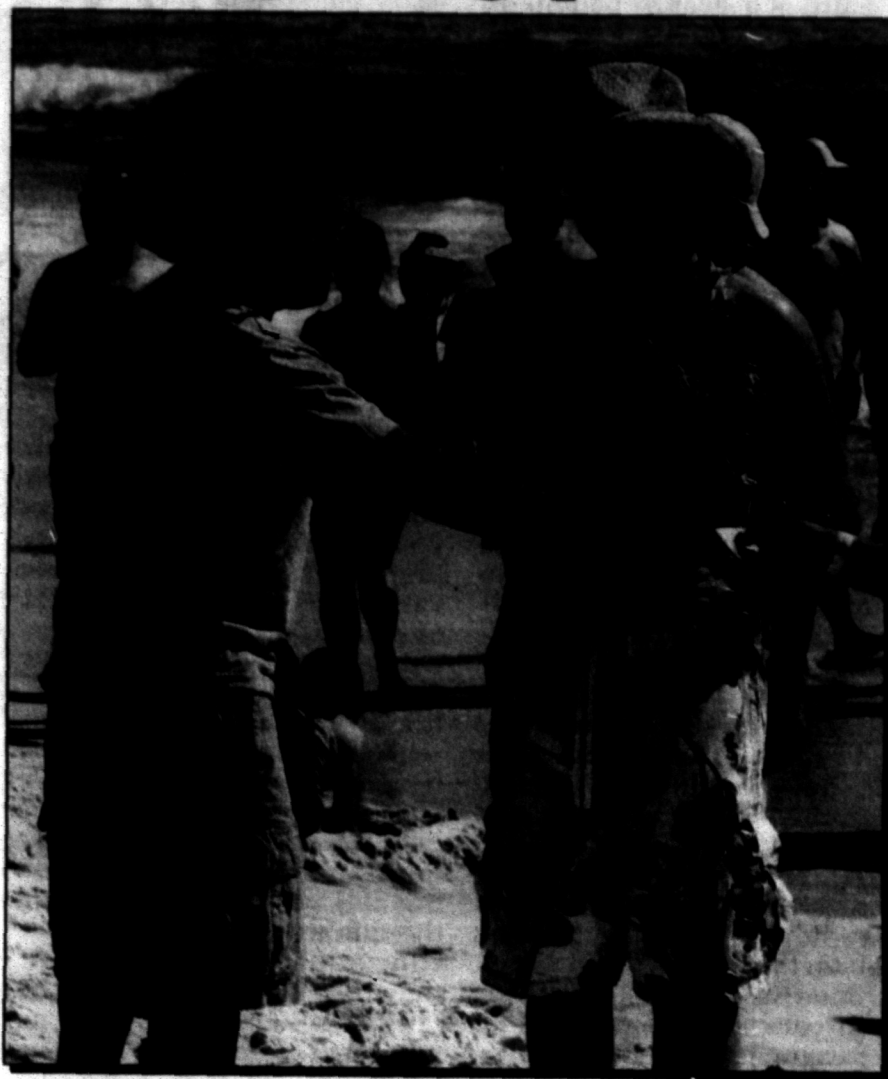
The student volunteers gather the names and information about the people to whom they talk, "and [we] get [the names] back to a local campus minister," Ellis said. "Many times we have a student group here from the same college, so we can get them connected. We also try to get them connected with a local church in their city as well."

The BeachReach ministry is more than 10 years old but has grown significantly in the past four years. Part of that is due to how heavily marketed spring break is and how intensely locations like Panama City Beach and South Padre Island, Texas, cater to the party scene on college campuses.

With the increase in partiers has come an increase in their peers ready to minister. "We believe this is an important ministry because Jesus was consistently with sinners," Ellis said. "He told the church leaders at the time that it is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick. The students that come here and party need to hear the Gospel. I love seeing Jesus becoming alive in the lives of individuals. He is our life and our hope."

There are three consecutive weeks of BeachReach this year, March 1-21. Although spring break is usually considered a holiday for students, the schedule during the week can hardly be considered leisurely for the volunteers.

They and their adult ministers arrive Saturday, often after 12-plus hours of driving (students came this year from as far away as Utah and New York). There's a meal, a worship service, then students hit the streets at 9 p.m. to prayerwalk the areas along the main strip where they'll be sharing the Gospel and giving rides the rest of the week.



OFFER OF HELP — Julio Bonfe, a cadet attending the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., offers cards for free van rides to spring break collegians in Panama City Beach, Fla. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

There is training Sunday morning that covers everything from evangelism to helping inebriated people in and out of vans. On Sunday afternoon the Christian students return to the strip and the beach, making initial contact with partiers and distributing cards with the van ride telephone number and information about the daily pancake breakfast.

They take to the streets Sunday night at 9 p.m. after worship, and repeat the evening schedule every night through Thursday, staying out until 2 a.m. The pancake breakfast is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at a local bowling alley.

"It is really an intense time of witnessing," said Mark

Mangrem, pastor of Connect Church in Arlington, Texas, and the nightly speaker during the third week. "The really cool thing about BeachReach is that... many of them have never shared their faith and Sunday and Monday are a bit awkward for them, but by the end of Thursday night it has gotten much more natural and they are looking for those opportunities."

"This is all reproducible. When these students return to their campuses they know how to approach someone with the Gospel and know how they can minister to their peers. I love hearing the stories how this [BeachReach experience] has transformed them."

Looking back

10 years ago

This year's NAIA Division I national championship tournaments see for the first time two Baptist schools winning — Union University's Lady Bulldogs, and the men's basketball team of Georgetown College.

20 years ago

Contributions to the 1987 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions has reached less than 80% of the \$75 million goal by late March. Foreign Mission Board president Keith Parks expresses "deep concern" about the pace of receipts. "This creates some serious implications for our budget," he said.

50 years ago

Mississippi leads all states in the Southern and American Baptist Conventions in pre-registration for the Baptist Youth World Conference to be held in Toronto, Canada.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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NO. 14



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Ruling reviewed

LOS ANGELES (BP) — The same California appeals court that issued a much-criticized homeschooling ruling has agreed to rehear the case, raising hopes in the homeschooling community that the justices will reverse their decision. The three-judge panel announced March 25 it would rehear the case. The court's Feb. 28 ruling asserted that "parents do not have a constitutional right to home school their children," alarming homeschoolers nationwide despite the fact it was limited to California. If it stands, the decision could have a dramatic impact on the state's estimated 166,000 homeschool students. Soon after it was issued, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger criticized it and pledged legislation if it wasn't overturned. State Schools Superintendent Jack O'Connell also supports the rights of homeschoolers. The Feb. 28 decision was viewed as particularly troublesome by pro-family groups because California's public schools have some of the more liberal laws in the nation regarding teaching about sexuality and homosexuality. California law, the court ruled, requires that children be enrolled and attend a public or private school or be "tutored by a person holding a valid state teaching credential for the grade being taught." Parents who fail to follow the state law could face criminal penalties. The court's ruling overturned a lower court decision that had ruled parents do indeed have a constitutional right to homeschool their children.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

MKR ZYPKP JFAAYL RBYH
KURD BWH, FUL PFWL,
PKOYQ AWRRA
JBWALQYU RD JDHY KURD
HY, FUL ODQMWL RBYH
UDR: ODQ DO PKJB WP RBY
IWUCLDH DO CDL.
AKIY YWCBRYU: PWSRYU

Clue: I=K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts Four Twelve.

FAITH FACTS

Faith is a strange commodity. None of us has ever seen any faith. You cannot open a package of it, take it out, and examine it, and yet knowingly or unknowingly you cannot live a day without exercising some faith. Usually faith is associated with religious teachings, and it is certainly the only way to be in contact with God. It is also the very essence of every significant aspect of life. It is a vital part of marriage, as a woman has faith that her husband will be true to her and will live with the desire to do those things that will honor and bless her. The husband likewise has confidence that his mate will be true to him and do the things that will enable and bless him. Often when we think of marriage we immediately think of love, and without question love is a vital ingredient in the relationship, yet faith can be even stronger. Examine any aspect of life and any relationship that you may have, and faith is essential to the success and long-term value of the experience.

In our relationship and experience with Christ, faith is of supreme worth because everything flows out of a faith connection. Although it was many years ago, I remember the day when I put my faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord of my life as though it was yesterday. Many days have passed and many trials and



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

triumphs have come, but all of these events were built on a beginning and continuing faith connection. At that moment when you trust Jesus and all that He has done to provide your salvation with all of the understanding that you may have of giving your life to Him, it is a glorious salvation event. It is the moment of conversion, the born again moment, and the life of Christ comes and sin is taken away. It is all because we trust Him.

It is fascinating to watch people as they struggle with trusting the Lord Jesus. Often people will even express that they have a hard time believing and yet just visiting with these faith strugglers you recognize that there is so much that they live day by day in faith. They exercise faith in what they do not know and in people whom they have not seen. For most of us, if we travel very far we may find it is easier, faster, and even safer to get on an airplane and go. I am not a pilot. I have been in a plane with friends who have turned the controls over to me. I have steered an air-

plane up, down, and around, but I have never taken off and have never landed. To be honest, I did not know where I was going. My flying experience is always to show up at a gate with a ticket in hand, to walk into a tunnel that leads me to the plane, to find my seat, sit down, listen to the emergency instructions, buckle up, and take off.

Now that is a crazy thing to do when you stop and think about the fact that in all of the years that I have flown, I have not one time ever met the pilot of the plane when I was traveling. I do not make it my practice to go to the cockpit, ask to meet the pilot, and evaluate his or her credentials and frame of mind. Maybe I should, but I just have never done it. In fact, I do not even bother to ask them if we are about to takeoff and go to the city to which I want to travel. No, the fact is that I put an awful lot of faith in the company that bought the airplane, maintains it, and hires trustworthy, capable people

to drive the plane and take me where I need to go. So far, my faith in them has been rewarded time and again.

It is incredible to think about how much faith and how little understanding we have of one of the most vital concerns of life and that is our own personal health. How many times does a person end up going to a doctor that they do not know who will in turn give a prescription that they cannot read? The prescription is taken to a pharmacist that the person may have never seen. They receive pills and have no idea what is in them, and then they swallow them. You talk about faith — you have to have it! Sometimes our human faith expressions are misplaced, misguided, or abused, which brings us to understand the wonder of our faith when it is placed in the Lord. Never at any time has our faith in God been ignored, abused, or unappreciated. God responds to us.

Jesus said, "He that cometh to me I will in nowise (or under no conditions) cast out" (John 6:37). Regardless if it is one of His wayward disciples, a thief on a cross, a demon possessed life, or a child longing to trust Him, when a person reaches out in faith to Jesus His nailed-scarred hand is already extended toward you. You can trust Him.

MS POSITIONS

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, Brookhaven, Miss., is currently accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music/outreach. Please send resumes to 749 North Jackson Street, Brookhaven, MS 39601 or email to questions@cbcbrookhaven.org.

FBC OLOH, IS CURRENTLY accepting resumes for full-time minister of music/youth. Please submit resumes to FBC Oloh, attn: music search committee, 36 Oloh Church Road, Sumrall, MS 39482.

SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER OF students. Those interested in this position or the interim position should contact Pineview Baptist Church, Clinton, MS. Phone (601) 924-7677. Fax resumes to (601) 924-8378. Or email pineviewbc@bellsouth.net.

NORTH MCCOMB BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking an interim or permanent part-time youth pastor. Send resume to 504 Laurel Street, McComb, MS 39648 or contact the church office at (601) 684-5214.

FAIRFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH, Moselle, Miss., is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume with references to Fairfield Baptist Church, c/o Ramsey Coutta, 942 Moselle-Seminary Rd., Moselle, MS 39459.

HARRISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, Tupelo, Miss., is now receiving resumes for the staff position of director of preschool ministries. Please send resumes to 4675 Cliff

Gookin Blvd., Tupelo, MS 38801. Or email to sgordon@harrisburgonline.org.

NORTH COLUMBIA BAPTIST Church is searching for a minister of music/education. Send resume to North Columbia Baptist Church, P.O. Box 271, Columbia, MS 39429. Or email to ncbc1@hotmail.com.

FBC KOSCIUSKO, MISS., IS SEEKING a full-time minister of children. To submit a resume, please mail to FBC, P.O. Box Box 70, Kosciusko, MS 39090, attention personnel chairman, or email fbc@fbckosciusko.com.

BRANDON BAPTIST CHURCH, Brandon, Miss., a traditional southern Baptist church, is currently accepting resumes from qualified applicants for the position of senior pastor. Please send resumes to pastor selection committee, P.O. Box 1662, Brandon, MS 39043-1662.

HERITAGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, is seeking a qualified individual to serve as minister of youth & children. Interested applicants send resume to youth & children's minister search committee, Heritage Heights Baptist Church, 4140 Hwy 15 North, Laurel, MS 39440. Or email heritageheights@bellsouth.net. For additional info contact David White, committee chairman at (601) 649-5760.

PART-TIME SECRETARIAL POSITION available for a local Baptist church, in Rankin county. For 20-24 hours a week. Please fax resume to 601-992-6393.



Do You Know A Strong Woman?

One who perseveres, a leader, mentor, defender, or a young woman filled with potential.

Nominate her online at
www.mbhs.org
by April 6, 2008.

The five winners will be announced on May 1st during "A Celebration of Strong Women." All nominees and nominators will receive a letter with details about the luncheon. Brought to you by Baptist for Women, Lifetime Television for Women and Comcast Spotlight.

Baptist
for WOMEN

601.948.6262 or 1.800.948.6262

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 3, 2008

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

ADOPT-A-SUMMER MISSIONARY

MISSISSIPPI BSU

Pastors

Did you know that ...

... 2008 is the 61st year of Mississippi Baptist Student Union sending out Summer Missionaries?

... during those years 3,366 students have served, and Mississippi BSUs have raised over two million dollars to send them?

... these students are servant leaders, giving up summer jobs and income to become missionaries?

WMU Leaders

And did you know that ...

... you and your church can be personally involved and supportive of one of these students as they serve this summer?

... by adopting a student for the summer, your church or WMU can experience first-hand support for those who are sacrificing to serve?

You can help by assisting students in many ways:

Spiritual – Praying for and remembering these students.

Physical – Helping students with small needs such as toiletries, gift cards, stamps, etc. Some churches have involved their VBS during the summer, their children, and their workers, in various support activities of Summer Missionaries.

DEADLINE: MAY 15!

YES! We are interested in adopting a Mississippi BSU Summer Missionary appointed through our State Baptist Student Union for the summer of 2008. Please register our request to be assigned a student and send further information.

Contact Person: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Church Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Three Mississippi universities/colleges near us: _____

Send to: Collegiate Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHAPLAINS' ASSOCIATION SPRING RETREAT

Patterson Place, Garaywa, Clinton

April 25-26, 2008



FRIDAY EVENING: "A Musical Evening with Bill Russell Baker"

Bill Baker has recorded two country/gospel albums and is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has a MA in philosophy and a Ph.D in history. He is the former pastor of FBC, Clinton, and serves as a professor with Mississippi College

SATURDAY: Steve Stone, guest speaker

Steve Stone serves as the associate executive director of Church Growth at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He served previously at churches across the state as minister of recreation, minister of education and youth, and as an associate pastor. He is also an adjunct professor with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Check-in begins at 3 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m.

Come early and enjoy afternoon refreshments, visit with old friends, and make new friends. We will dismiss after lunch on Saturday.

There is no charge for members of the Chaplains' Association and their spouses. For non-members of the association, the cost is \$50 per person for room and meals.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – APRIL 16

For reservations contact Carol Wright, Men's Ministry,
MBCB, 601-292-3334, or 1-800-748-1651, E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.

Mississippi wMu
Associational
Missions
Leadership Training

Called to Love ...
Amazing Grace

April 18, 1:30 p.m. - April 19, 3 p.m.

Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. on April 18
Garaywa Camp & Conference Center

Registration of lodging and meals required.

Call Lisa Miller in the MS wMu office
for registration form – 601-292-3317.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

April 13
6 p.m.

Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Hot Topics Discussions for Student Ministers

"Hanging on when the bottom drops out"

Allen Jackson, NOBTS (Clarksdale & Harrisburg)

Ken Hall, MBCB (McLaurin Heights, Brookhaven & Wiggins)

"The student ministers role in Sunday School"

Bruce Edwards, Tennessee Baptist Convention (Clarksdale & Harrisburg)

Andy Mullins, Student Minister, MHBC (McLaurin Heights, Brookhaven & Wiggins)

Monday, May 12, Clarksdale BC

Tuesday, May 13, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

Monday, May 19, McLaurin Heights BC, Pearl

Tuesday, May 20, FBC, Brookhaven

Thursday, May 22, FBC, Wiggins

Schedule (all locations)	7:30	Break
6:00 p.m. Light Supper	7:45	Session II
6:30 Session I	8:45	Dismiss

For info, contact the Sunday School Dept.: 601-292-3320, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 320, or hdedmon@mbcb.org

"Lord of the Ring-less"



2008 Singles Retreat

May 17-18

Central Hills, Kosciusko

For more information call: **800-748-1651**

Receive a t-shirt when you register by May 1. **Deadline to register is May 12.**

Registration: **Saturday, 1:30 p.m.**

Cost: **Unit A - \$45**

2-4 persons with a private bath, includes linens

Unit B - \$35

4-10 individuals with shared bath, includes linens

Commuter - \$10

Saturday activities/BBQ

Send registration fee to:

MBCB - Conference
Ministry Office
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

CAMP GARAYWA CABIN LEADERS STILL NEEDED APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center has **EXTENDED THE DEADLINE** for cabin leader applications. If you are a female college student who has a passion for missions and children and want to spend your summer serving the Lord, please contact **ERICA HARMS, CAMP DIRECTOR**, at **601-292-3315** and visit mbcb.org for an application.

"Setting the Pace"

Pastor
Ministry of Education
Sunday School Director



Monday, May 5

First Baptist Church, Columbus

Tuesday, May 6

First Baptist Church, Brookhaven

This strategic conference will be led by **LAWRENCE PHIPPS**, pastor of Vaughn Forest Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., and **DANIEL EDMONDS**, State Sunday School director for Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Come hear these dynamic leaders explain the power of working as a team, setting the pace to make Sunday School **THE Growth Agent of the church.**

Phipps and Edmonds co-authored **Growing Sunday School TEAMS: A Practical Guide to Building Bible Study Groups in the Church.**

Provided at no cost to all registered conference participants:

- a complimentary dinner beginning promptly at 6 p.m.
- the book **Growing Sunday School TEAMS: A Practical Guide to Building Bible Study Groups in the Church**

For more information, contact the Sunday School Department: 601-292-3291 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or E-mail cdlay@mbcb.org

LAD/CRUSADER Day



STATEWIDE RACER COMPETITION

APRIL 12, 2008

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. / Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko

2008
PREACHING

FEATURED
PRESENTER

Jerry Songer

Interim pastor
FBC
Orangeburg, S.C.

Monday, April 21

First Baptist Church, Louisville

Tuesday, April 22

First Baptist Church, Natchez

For more information, contact: (601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

COLLEGE WORKERS SUMMIT

for all church volunteers and staff who work with college students

may 3, 2008

International Baptist Convention Board

Featuring: Linda Coleman, International Convention Board, USA

College representatives from the International Mission Board & North American Mission Board, and International Baptist Convention Board

For more information, contact Christy Carley at 601-292-3320

**FOR ALL BOYS AND GIRLS
WHO HAVE
COMPLETED GRADES 3-7**



Cost \$95
with
\$50 deposit
due with
preregistration

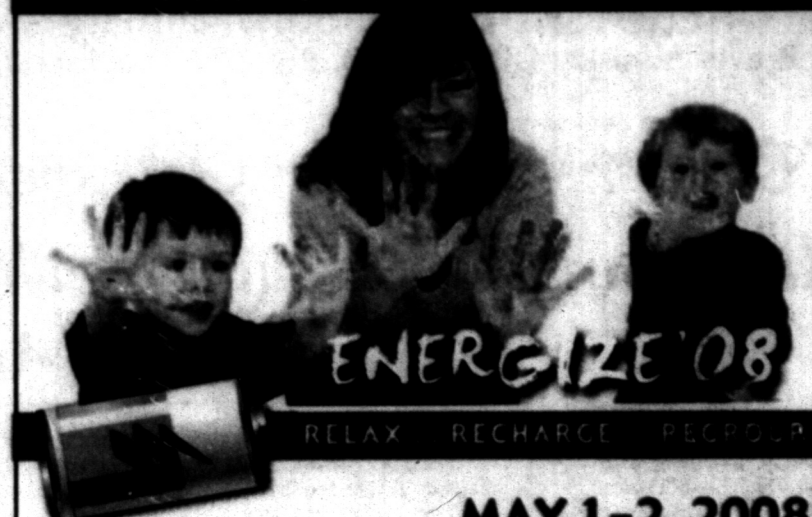
Bible study, Bible memorization, Bible skill,
worship, campfire service, morning watch,
time with Southern Baptist missionaries,
horseback riding,
rifle range [safety/marksmanship],
swimming, canoeing, four-square
... and much more!

*Each church group must have an adult male counselor
for every six boys (or portion thereof) and an adult
female counselor for every six girls (or portion thereof).
Campers are together with the counselors from their
church all during camp.*

**Camp begins with check-in at 2 p.m., Monday, June 30, and ends at
noon on Wednesday, July 2.**

For more info, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
601-292-3287 or dhicks@mbcb.org

**PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S
MINISTER RETREAT**



MAY 1-2, 2008

Topics & Activities include:

- Balancing Life with Ministry
- Creative Ways to Communicate in Today's World
- Forum to share with other ministers
- Fellowship activities for networking

**Patterson Place / Camp Garaywa
Registration, Thursday / 1 p.m.**

**Conference begins at 1:30 p.m. on
Thursday and ends at noon on Friday**

For more info: Sunday School Department:
601-292-3294 or aboydstun@mbcb.org

**Super
Summer
08**

**July 14-18, 2008
Mississippi College**

SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STUDENTS
UNITE WITH ONE VOICE AND PASSION.

PREPARE. WORSHIP. GO.

REGISTRATION BEGINS
MARCH 1

For more info, contact the Discipleship and Family
Ministry Department
601-292-3286 or Khalil@mbcb.org

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Sage Girls Conference

May 2-3, 2008

Friday: 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Info and Registration online at:
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**SAGE
MINISTRIES**

GET ALL OF YOUR REGISTRATION FACTS AT: **WWW.SAGEMINISTRIES.ORG**

Pray this day for...

APRIL 4 - 17, 2008

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Only as we hear God speak do we have anything life changing to say to others."

Wilma Reed, "Is Anyone Out There Listening?"

(1) Executive Director Jim Futral and the employees at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; (2) Associational missions directors and those who work with them; (3) all pastors worldwide who will be preaching the Word of God today; (4) the transformation of the hearts of all hearing the Word of God this day.

(1) Cooperative Program Day (Stewardship Emphasis); (2) Thank you for praying for the men in the younger counsel of the village of Mail, Samagho, as they study God's Word. Pray for all the men in the village to be drawn to God and His love. Pray for God's wisdom and discernment for missionary L. to recognize God's timing on sharing.

(1) Bible Drills, FBC, Picayune; Hernando BC, Hernando (D&FM); (2) State Ministry Assistants Conference, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 7th - 8th (P/LD). Pray for a time of education, refreshment and encouragement for all of the ministry assistants who work diligently behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly.

(1) Bible Drills, Temple BC, Hattiesburg; Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian (D&FM); (2) Growth Plan Awareness for AMDs, Baptist Building (SS); (3) Pray for Governor Haley Barbour to diligently seek God's guidance in all of the decisions He makes. Pray for the Lord to burden his heart to seek out God's will from His Word.

(1) Bible Drills, FBC, McComb; FBC, Batesville (D&FM); (2) Pray for the associational prayer directors and officers as they seek God's direction for reaching their association. Pray for our churches to see the necessity of prayer for the empowerment to fulfill the supernatural call God has given us to reach the lost and disciple them.

(1) Bible Drills, Salem Heights BC, Laurel (D&FM); (2) Growth Plan Awareness for AMDs, FBC, Pontotoc (SS); (3) Pray for the mayors of the cities and towns of Mississippi. Pray that they will surround themselves with those who are wise in God's ways. Pray that they will seek God's will from His Word as they make decisions.

(1) Baptist Building At HOME DAYS, 9-11; (2) Pray for each phase of our state's ministry in equipping the church for the work of ministry and reaching out to a hurting world, desperately in need of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Pray for each church member to become more and more like Christ in their personal life.

A couple on the Susu Team of Guinea are feeling God's leading to relocate to the town of Forecariah in order to be nearer the area where they see God at work. Pray for God's timing and that God will place them in an area where they can build strong relationships with those seeking the Truth.

(1) Bible Drills, FBC, Tupelo; Harrisburg BC, Tupelo (D&FM); (2) Pray that our state ministry will be more effective in starting new churches. Pray that God will direct ministers to those whose heart He has been preparing, and that He will give His wisdom to ministers as they present the gospel to people from diverse backgrounds.

(1) Bible Drills, FBC, Greenwood (D&FM); (2) Growth Plan Awareness for AMDs, Main Street BC, Hattiesburg (SS); (3) Pray for the youth of our state who have become addicted to drugs and alcohol. Pray that God will lead them to those who can guide them and teach them how to be free by depending on the power of the Lord of All, Jesus Christ.

(1) Young Musicians' Festival Adjudication, FBC, Clinton, 4th - 5th (CM); (2) Leadership Training Conference, Mississippi College, Clinton, 4th - 5th (CLGM). Pray for our college students to have a heart to live their lives in such a way as to draw people to Jesus Christ. Pray that they will follow Him with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength.

(1) Bible Drills, FBC, Starkville (D&FM); (2) Mother-Daughter Overnight, Garaywa, 11th - 12th (wMu); (3) Leadership Training conference, Mississippi College, Clinton, 12th (CLGM); (4) Please pray for Prime Minister Lansana Kouyate of Guinea. Pray for him to have a personal encounter with the true and living God today.

(1) Young Musicians' Festival, Mississippi College, Clinton, 8:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. (CM). Pray for these young musicians to seek to glorify God through their musical talents throughout their lives. (2) Toward a Growing Marriage, Longview Heights BC, Olive Branch (D&FM). Pray for couples to learn how to have a marriage that pleases God.

(1) Lad/Crusader Day, Central Hills, Kosciusko (MM); (2) Bible Drills, Parkway BC, Clinton; FBC, Madison (D&FM). Pray for each 2008 Bible drill to become more aware that the Word of God is much more than just a written book, but the very words of God given to us to believe and apply to every area of our lives.



Senior Adult Retreats

I. May 19-20 at Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

Speaker: Henry Lyons, Montgomery, Ala., Former ABCB senior adult consultant and former pastor of FBC, Salem

Choirs:

19th - Reflections, FBC, Jackson
20th - Trinity Singers, Southaven

Gatherings:

19th - Songs through the Decades
Eva Hart, FBC, Jackson
20th - R.L. & Beth Sigest
Mini Concert, Yazoo City

II. May 22-23 at FBC, Cleveland

Speaker: Chuck Kelley
President of NOBTS

Choirs:

22nd - Parkway Singers, Clinton
23rd - Ridgecrest Choir, Madison

Gatherings:

22nd - Him Singers, Raymond
23rd - Irene Martin, Pianist
Mickey Bounds, Cajun Preacher

III. May 26-27 at Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian

Speaker:

Phil Waldrop, Alabama
Founder of Celebrations for Seniors

Choirs:

26th - Forest Senior Adult Choir
27th - FBC, Magee

Gatherings:

26th - Wayne Pinkerton
Motown Music, MBCB
27th - Jerry Watts, "Humor"

IV. September 25-26 at FBC, McComb

Speaker:

Sonny Adkins
Former state evangelism director

Choirs:

25th - FBC Senior Adult Choir, Pascagoula
26th - Lamar County Association Choir

Gatherings:

25th - "Professor Compone"
Joseph Harris, Ellisville
26th - Piano/organ duet
Irene Martin and Ed Sudduth

6-3-04

MISS MAGGIE WINGO

Parents: Floyd & Sylvia
South America

6-6-86

MISS CHARISSA B. HEARON

Parents: Thomas & Bonnie
Western Europe

6-12-96

MISS AUDREY L. YOUNG

Parents: Steven & Laura
Middle America &
the Caribbean

6-15-05

MR. ETHAN EPPS

Parents: Aaron & Tiffany
South America

6-17-95

MR. SETH D.

Parents: P & D
CEE

6-22-94

MISS MARY KATHRYN YOUNG

Parents: Steven & Laura
Middle America &
the Caribbean

6-23-93

MR. JONATHAN ROBERTSON

Parents: Steve & Ruth
West Africa

6-24-94

MISS MELODY W.

Parents: Matt & Shea W.
Last Frontier

6-23-93

MISS HANNAH ROBERTSON

Parents: Steve & Ruth
West Africa

FOR SECURITY,

cards will be forwarded. Please send all
to: Child's name, Parent's name,
MBCB wMu MK Birthdays,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

PLEASE NOTE:

Church members may send a package of
cards together; cards do not have to be sent
individually to the wMu.

For info: 601-292-3373 or gshows@MBCB.org

HOUSE TOPS

1. Chase Porter, a junior majoring in Christian Studies and Philosophy, received the Byrd Memorial Preaching Award for the second year in a row. The Byrd Memorial Preaching Award is a cash award presented annually by the family of the late Mr. and Mrs. David Q. Byrd, Sr., loyal supporters of Mississippi College since 1930.



1. Porter, Harrell Byrd and wife, Charlotte

2. Ashley Waldrep, a Blue Mountain College junior from Madison, Ala., has been invited to read from her one-act play at the 2008 Southern Literary Festival. The Southern Literary Festival was

founded in 1936 at Blue Mountain College.

3. The William Carey University Coast Campus will host its groundbreaking Apr. 7, 2 p.m., in Biloxi.

4. Following the success of offering classes during a newly instituted J-Term this past January, William Carey University's Hattiesburg, Gulfport and New Orleans campuses will once again offer students a unique learning opportunity with May-Term classes May 12 through 23. Contact the admissions office for more information and to request a May-Term brochure at (800) 962-5991 ext. 103, (601) 318-6103 or email admissions@wmcarey.edu.

5. Twenty William Carey University freshmen scholars pose for a picture in front of the Carey Baptist Church in Northampton, England. This church, located in Moulton, served as William Carey's home during his pastorate there from 1786-1789. His cobbler shop was in the front room of the house. The trip was directed by Milton Wheeler, professor of history.



5. Carey honor students

6. Mississippi College alumnus Dr. Bill Townsend will soon return to his alma mater as vice president for advancement and legal counsel to the president after holding key campus leadership posts in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.



6. Townsend

7. The Mississippi College School of Nursing is pleased to announce it is partnering with the Baptist Healthplex at Mississippi College and the Clinton Parks and Recreation Department to bring the "Red Carpet Health Fair" to Clinton on April 21. This event will be held from 8 am to 11 am in the Baptist Healthplex at Mississippi College. This health fair is free to the public and will include information on diabetes, heart health, bone health, men and women's health, financial health, nutrition, exercise, safety, and many other topics.

8. Stephanie Bilbo, daughter of Clarence and Kathy Bilbo, Carriere, was selected Miss BMC by the student body of Blue Mountain College.



8. Bilbo

1. Williamville Church, Kosciusko, has called Robert Lawrence as minister of students and associate pastor. He is shown with his wife, April.



1. The Lawrences

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WILD WEST TOUR/PURPOSE DRIVEN Tours: June 9-28-Yellowstone, Rushmore, Grand Canyon, 5 more N. Parks, Colorado Springs, 16 states, much more. Christian owned Ms. company. Call 601-371-8733 for details. Registration deadline Apr. 20.

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SBC resolutions committee to serve at Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Frank Page has named the members of the Resolutions Committee who will serve during the June 10-11 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Page, pastor of First Church in Taylors, S.C., appointed Darrell Orman of Florida as committee chairman. Orman is pastor of First Church in Stuart.

Page's other appointees, in alphabetical order, are:

— Tony Beam, vice president for student services and Christian worldview at North

Greenville University in Tigerville, S.C., and member of Northwood Church in Greer.

— Galen Jones, African American church planting strategist in Tuscaloosa, Ala., under dual appointment of the North American Mission Board and the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. Jones is a member of Pilgrim Rest Church in Tuscaloosa.

— Rick Lineberger, pastor of First Church in Bradenton, Fla.

— Michael Martin, vice president for academic affairs and professor of New

Testament studies at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and member of The Quest, a Southern Baptist congregation in Novato, Ca.

— Jeff Moore, senior pastor of First Church in Altus, Okla.

— Frank Moreno, director of the Florida Baptist Convention's language division and member of First Hispanic Church in Jacksonville.

— Kevin Smith, assistant professor of church history at Southern Seminary and pastor of Watson Memorial Church in Louisville, Ky.

— Charles Strickland, senior pastor of Whitefield Church in Belton, S.C.

— Greg Thornbury, dean of Union University's school of Christian studies, and member of Englewood Church in Jackson, Tenn.

The naming of the Resolutions Committee in late March is in keeping with an amendment to SBC Bylaw 20 approved during the 2002 SBC annual meeting in St. Louis, which also entailed various changes to the resolution submission procedure. The changes include the following:

— Proposed resolutions may be submitted as early as April 15 but no later than 15 days prior to the SBC annual meeting, giving the Resolutions Committee a two-week period in which to consider submissions. Resolutions may no longer be submitted during the annual meeting.

— Proposed resolutions must be accompanied by a letter from a church qualified to

send a messenger to the SBC annual meeting certifying that the individual submitting the resolution is a member in good standing.

— Proposed resolutions preferably should be submitted by e-mail or mailed to the Resolutions Committee in care of the SBC Executive Committee. The drafts must be typewritten, titled, dated and include complete contact information for the person and his or her church.

— No person will be allowed to submit more than three resolutions per year.

— If a properly submitted resolution is not forwarded by the Resolutions Committee to the SBC annual meeting, a two-thirds vote of messengers would be required to bring the proposed resolution to the convention floor.

All resolutions adopted by the SBC can be searched and read on the Web at <http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/AMResSearch.asp>.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

Cairo Church, Ecu: Revival, Apr. 12 - 16; Sat., 6 p.m., with singing by Stronghold of Furrs; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Pender, speaker; Robert Smith, music; Bill Dowdy, pastor.

New Prospect Church, Oxford: 98th anniversary, Apr. 27; worship, 9:45 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Steve Quarles, speaker; Ken White, pastor.

Victory Church, Mathiston: Revival, Apr. 20 - 23; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; John Hanies, speaker; Eddie Brock, pastor.

Duck Hill Church, Duck Hill: Revival, Apr. 6 - 9; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; David Miller, speaker; Michael Waldrop, music; Chas Rowland, pastor.

North Greenwood Church, Greenwood: Revival, Apr. 6 - 9; Sun., 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., noon with lunch and Mon. - Tues., 7 p.m., Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Brian Harbour, speaker; Rick Carter, music.

Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian: 125th anniversary; Mondays, Mar. 31, Apr. 7, 14, 21, and 28; fellowship receptions, 5:30 p.m.; celebrations, 6:30 p.m.; speakers, Bill Causey, Thad Moore, Harold O'Chester, Jim Futral, and James Ruffin; music, Robert Winn, Cindy Coon, Matt Crook, Harvey Kelly, and Graham Smith.

New Sight Church, Brookhaven: Revival, Apr. 6 - 9; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Albert Wilkerson, speaker; Hubert Greer, music.

Trace Ridge Church, Ridgeland: Revival, Apr. 20 - 23; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Greg Belser, speaker; Jack Hollingsworth, music; Michael Ensign, pastor.

Crosby Church, Crosby: Homecoming, Apr. 6, 11 a.m., followed by potluck dinner; speaker, Kenny Cantrell; Evelyn Higgins, music.

Main Street Church, Goodman: Homecoming, Apr. 6; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Billy McKay and Carl Hudson, speakers; John Parker, pastor.

Tuscola Church, Leake Association: Revival, Apr. 13 - 16; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Scott Vaughn, speaker; Mike Donovan, music; Smith Sanders, pastor.

Yalobusha Association/Elam Church, Coffeeville: Revival, Apr. 10, 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, speaker; Jimmy Hood, music.

Neely Church, Neely: Revival, April 6-9. Sun. 11 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 pm. Mark King, speaker; J. Wilbur Hall, pastor.

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Damon Burgess

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Trooper Hales

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Trooper Hales

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WITNESSING



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Communication Services
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jchen@mbcb.org

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Pioneers in the Covenant: Moving Out of Your Comfort Zone

Genesis 12:1-8; 13:5-9, 14-16

By Rick Henson

Imagine how you would react if this Sunday night your pastor were suddenly called away for an emergency and you were asked to preach. Most church members would faint on the spot or leave quickly. Speaking before an audience of any size is outside most people's comfort zone. What if God called you to move to a foreign land and serve Him there? That's even further outside our comfort zone. That is what God asked of Abram.

For the month of April we will examine the Patriarchs and how they paved the way to a covenant relationship with our Father. This week we

will examine how Abram, whom the Lord eventually renamed Abraham, obeyed God and moved to a new land. For the next three lessons in April we will examine Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac, Isaac's conflict over wells for his herds, and Jacob's reconciliation with Esau.

Genesis 12:1-2a reads, "The LORD said to Abram: Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation..." Certainly Abram could have made many excuses like people still use not to serve the Lord. "I am too old." He was, after all, seventy-five years old at the time. "We have



Henson

no children." "We just recently moved from Ur to Haran." "I'm still raising my nephew Lot." "My father, Terah tried to move our family to Canaan but failed." (Genesis 11:31). "Why me?"

Abram obeyed the voice of the Lord. He left Haran and moved to where the Lord showed him. Notice that God called Abram to leave his land, his relatives, and his father's house. In return for his obedience God gave Abram a new land, countless relatives, and made him the exalted father of a new nation. God gave Abram more of exactly what he gave up.

God also promised to bless all people on the earth through Abram. Eventually that prophecy was fulfilled by one of Abram's offspring, Jesus Christ.

Even though Abram did not have any Scriptures to follow, books to guide him, or a church to support him, he obeyed and served the Lord. When God

called him to go out of his comfort zone he left, even though he had no examples to follow and did not know where God would lead him.

God often calls believers to expand their horizons and leave the comforts of home. When God leads us to go to the Gulf Coast to help those still recovering from the ravages of Hurricane Katrina, we get to come home again and sleep in our own beds. When God impresses one's heart to work as a short-term volunteer in Africa, Asia, Central America, South America, or Europe, we have the advantages of following the example of those gone before.

Yet with all the advantages we have that Abram did not have, many of us still refuse to obey the voice of the Lord who said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation," Mark 16:15. Abram obeyed the Lord though he knew he would never see his home or relatives again. He lived by faith. Abram trusted God for what he did not know.

God demands faith. Hebrews 11:6 reveals, "And without faith it is impossible to please Him." Abram demonstrated his faith by obedience. We prove our faith the same way. The world says, "Show me and I'll believe." Jesus says, "Believe and I'll show you." Faith always precedes God's blessings. Abram and his wife Sarai left their land before God showed them the land their offspring would possess. He left his family before God made him the ancestor of countless people. Abram left his father's house before God made him the father of many.

Is God leading you to get out of your comfort zone and witness to a neighbor? Or go on a mission trip? Or teach a Bible study class, or sing in the choir? Or preach the gospel, or start a new church? Demonstrate your faith and you will see God's blessings in your life as Abram did.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

When Others Hate You

Genesis 37:2b-11, 17-20, 28

By Marion Duncan

Joseph, one of the most exciting spiritual giants in the Bible, is the greatest figure in the remaining chapters of Genesis. His father Jacob grew up in a home where parental favoritism had existed. He knew the consequences of this fallacy first hand. It had caused him to flee his home country to avoid the wrath of his brother Esau. Yet, Jacob very openly showed his favoritism toward Joseph, the first son born of his later years to his beloved wife, Rachel, causing hatred to diminish family loyalty.

Young Joseph tended Jacob's sheep with his brothers, sons of his father's other wives, and observed that they behaved differently when their father was absent from the way they would if he were with them. Joseph rightfully gave an accurate and

proper report of their actions to his father, not as a tale-bearer, but as a diligent son with the courage of his convictions.

Jacob gave Joseph a "designer" coat, distinctively created for one who was an overseer rather than a laborer. Genesis 37:4 says, "When his brothers saw that their father loved him (Joseph) more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him." (NIV)

Joseph had a dream and, being more prophet than politician, told it to his brothers. In his dream, he and his brothers were binding sheaves of grain in the field when his sheaf suddenly rose up straight, while the brothers' sheaves gathered around and bowed down to it. The brothers were enraged that Joseph believed he was made to rule over them. Joseph had



Duncan

another dream described in 37:9. "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." (NIV) These dreams go far beyond Joseph to Christ, for God has given to Him absolute reign and supremacy over this planet. There will be a time "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..." Phil.2:10-11 (NIV)

Joseph's brothers had taken Jacob's flocks to graze near Shechem. Wanting to know of their welfare, Jacob sent Joseph to see if all was well with them and to bring word back to him. Recognizing his distinctive robe in the distance, the brothers plotted to kill him. (Note in Matt. 21:33-38 (NIV) Jesus' prophetic teaching concerning the landowner who sent his servants to collect his part of the harvest of his vineyard, but they were abused or killed by the tenants of his land. In the

end, he sent his son to them thinking that surely the tenants would respect his son, but they rejected him and killed him as well.)

Reuben, the eldest of the sons who stood to lose more than anyone from his father's favoritism toward Joseph, intervened for him and persuaded the others not to kill him. When a merchant's caravan came by en route to Egypt, Judah convinced the others to sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites as a slave, but God intended this evil for Joseph's good and delivered him into the hands of Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials.

Jacob's own deceitfulness returns to him in his sons' bringing to him Joseph's ornamented robe stained with goat's blood. Jacob could not be comforted in his grief over Joseph. "...in mourning will I go down to the grave to my son." (37:35b-NIV)

"Genesis 38 is one of those chapters of the Bible rarely read in public—rightly so perhaps, for it contains the record of deeds of darkest shame." (Exploring Genesis) The Bible

does not mask the imperfections of those inside its covers. Judah created deception to trick Jacob into thinking Joseph was dead. Tamar, Judah's daughter-in-law by his sons Er and Onan, created the deception to trick Judah for not honoring the custom of levirate marriage* a second time after the death of Onan. (*An unmarried man would marry his brother's wife, and the first child would bear the name of the deceased man, guaranteeing him a name in the tribal genealogies because ancient Hebrews had no assurance of meaningful afterlife.) Tamar's husbands died because of their wickedness—Er was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and Onan refused to take his levirate responsibility toward Tamar. Not wanting to lose Shelah, too, Judah did not keep his promise to Tamar. (Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary). Judah's lust stands in stark contrast to of Joseph's purity demonstrated in chapters 37 and 39.

Duncan is wMu director at First Church, Starkville

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record



2. Concord Church, Pelahatchie, baby dedication



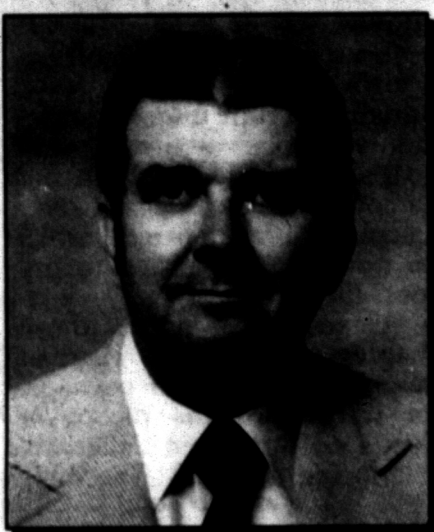
3. First Church McLaurin, Hattiesburg

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OBITUARY

Millard Guy Reedy, Jr., 85, died March 3 in Water Valley. He was born

September 19, 1922, in Aberdeen. He was preceded in death by his parents, Millard Guy Reedy, Sr. and Bessie Myatt Reedy, and one sister Laurelle VanBuskirk. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Doris Spencer Reedy; three children, M. Guy Reedy, III, Stephen (Margaret) Reedy, and Gloria (Alan) Lamb; nine grandchildren, and sixteen great grandchildren. Reedy graduated from Mississippi College in 1944. He began his ministry as a Southern



Reedy

Baptist preacher at Satartia and Ogden in Yazoo County, MS while attending Mississippi College. He attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Tex., for a short period prior to contracting poliomyelitis. Reedy had several pastorates in Mississippi spanning 51 years. Some of these were: Crenshaw Church, Darling Church, First Church, Sardis, Ruleville Church, Highland Church of Laurel, and First Church, Water Valley, where he served nearly 23 years prior to his retirement in 1992.

1. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, is hosting an On Mission Celebration Apr. 6-9; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m., with different missionaries speaking nightly. For information, call (601) 736-1136.

2. Concord Church, Pelahatchie, held a baby dedication Mar. 22 for Devin Banks Jones. He is shown, from left, with Evelyn McNair, Ollie Faye Jones, Vickie Jones, Craig Jones, and Doyle Jones.

3. First Church McLaurin, Hattiesburg, held an Easter egg hunt Mar. 22. Shown are the participants.

4. Faith Church, Ovett, is hosting a spring sing Apr. 5, 7 p.m., with music provided by Kathy Lee.

5. The Acteens of Faith Church, Meridian, distributed 18 Easter baskets to homebound members of the church family. Shown are the participants.

6. Tangipahoa Church, Summit, recognized Mildred Barron Mar. 9 on the occasion of her 101st birthday. Shown are pastor Mike Morris and Barron.

7. The Mission Friends of Thompson Church, Smithdale, delivered bags of soup to Jean Spring, director of Southwest Mississippi Christian Outreach Ministries in McComb. Shown are the participants.

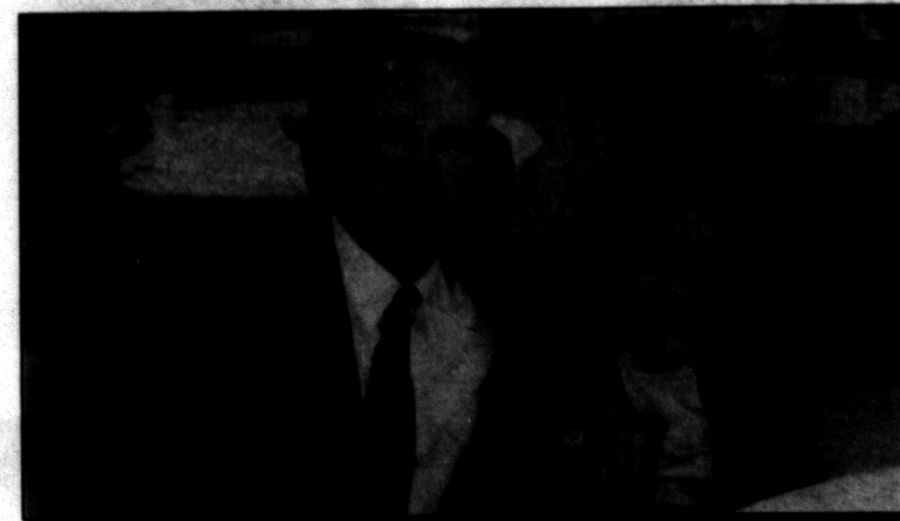
8. Liberty Church, Kemper County, is hosting the Gloryland Quartet in concert Apr. 12, 6 p.m. Free.

9. Ethel Church, Ethel, recognized Mozell Avery for teaching children for 50 years. Shown are Sunday School director James Taylor and Avery.

10. The youth of Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale, spent their spring break helping at the North Delta Association's Ministry Center, shopping to replenish the pantry, cleaning shelves, and reorganizing the pantry. Todd Stanton, youth leader; M.C. Johnson, AMD. Shown, from left, are Jonathan Burnwatt, Nickey Allen, Rachel Brooks, Preston Hankins, Matthew Manning, and Bethany Allen.



5. Acteens, Faith Church, Meridian



6. Morris and Barron



7. Mission Friends, Thompson Church, Smithdale



9. Taylor and Avery